

HELENSBURGH PARISH CHURCH

Minister : Rev. David T. Young

Associate Minister : Rev. Tina Kemp



CONNECTIONS

MARCH 2020



From the Manse...

Wednesday 26 February is the start of Lent, the six-week period leading up to Easter. In the early Church, it was a time when new converts were instructed in the faith, ready for their baptism at Easter. Over the years, Lent has become a season of penitence, self-examination and fasting. Jesus began His earthly ministry by fasting in the wilderness for 40 days and taught his disciples to fast, as per the narrative found at Matthew 6:17 *'when you fast put oil on your head and wash your face...'*

Fasting might involve missing one or two meals in a day, refraining from TV or Smartphone, chocolate or alcohol, or whatever gets in the way of us fully focusing on God. What are the reasons for fasting?

The act of giving up something is a tangible sacrifice to God, reminding us of our desire to put him first in our lives.

Giving up things we value shows us how dependent we can be on other things rather than God.

Fasting helps us to surrender our *'idols'* to God.

When fasting we are reminded of a deeper hunger and need for God in our lives: *'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.'* (Matthew 5:6). We learn to be more dependent on God, while releasing the stuff we depend on in life.

Lent can also be a time to embrace new spiritual disciplines e.g. joining a study or prayer group, participating in *'random acts of kindness'* like visiting a neighbour or giving someone a lift home from the supermarket, or by giving more time to personal prayer and Bible study. Whatever you do, have a great Lent!

I'll end with these words from Dietrich Bonhoeffer:

'Jesus takes it for granted that his disciples will observe the pious custom of fasting. Strict exercise of self-control is an essential feature of the Christian's life. Such customs have only one purpose – to make the disciples more ready and cheerful to accomplish those things which God would have done.'

May the deepest peace of God be with each and every one of you as we journey together this Lenten Season and always.

Your friend and Minister,

David T. Young

A Prayer for Lent

Forty days alone,
a wilderness of thoughts,
tempting and inviting thoughts,
which could so easily have distracted you
from your task, your mission,
your vision.
Yet you emerged, stronger and more attuned
to all that had to be done,
despite a time constraint
that to our eyes would have seemed hopeless.

We too live in stressful times.
Demands are made of our time,
that leave so little
for the important things of life.
We are easily distracted
in the wilderness of our lives,
by every call to go this way or that,
to turn stone to bread
leap from mountains,
and do all that would keep us from the truth.
We listen to the voices of this world,
and ignore the one who endured all this
and so much more,
and emerged triumphant,
that we might not have to suffer so.

Forgive us, Father,
when we get distracted from our task.
Forgive us those times when we try
to be all things to all men,
and fail to be anything to anyone

From Faith & Worship



Worship March - June

Morning Worship at 11:00am every Sunday unless otherwise stated

March

Sunday 1st	11:00am	Communion Service
Sunday 8th	11:00am	Elder led service
Sunday 29th	11:00am	Family Service and Lunch

Ministry Team

Worship from March-June will be conducted on a rotational basis until Tina is able to be back with us. We look forward to welcoming Rev Norma Moore, Rev Ishbel Robertson, Rev Liz Houston and Rev Fred Booth. Details will appear in the local press and in the weekly Service Sheet. No additional ministry support is being given to David during this time so please remember him in your prayers – he's a full-time member of staff down and he's only human too!

1 March - Rev Norma Moore
8 March - Rev Ishbel Robertson
22 March - Rev Norma Moore
29 March - Emily Harvey-Cartmell

5 April - Rev Norma Moore
19 April - Rev Fred Booth
26 April - Rev Fred Booth

3 May - Rev Norma Moore
17 May - Rev Fred Booth
31 May - Rev Ishbel Robertson

14 June - Rev Liz Houston
28 June - Rev Liz Houston

Please be aware that this schedule is subject to change

Worship on Wednesday

The short services are at 12.30pm on Wednesdays in the Gathering Space, followed by soup and bread in the Small Hall. The relaxed nature of the services provided by our talented Ministry Team is enjoyed by all. Come along to where a warm welcome awaits.

March - June

March 1st

June O'Neil
Susan Salmon

March 8th

Janny Barr
Diana Macintosh

March 15th

Emily Harvey-Cartmell
Lindsay McKechnie

March 22nd

Vicki Harvey-Cartmell
Susan Salmon

March 29th

June O'Neil
Barbie Paterson

April 5th

Lindsay McKechnie
Elaine Craddock

April 12th

Janny Barr
Susan Salmon

April 19th

Diana Mackintosh
Vicki Harvey-Cartmell



April 26th

June O'Neil
Lindsay McKechnie

May 3rd

Janny Barr
Susan Salmon

May 10th

Diana Mackintosh
June O'Neil

May 17th

Vicki Harvey-Cartmell
Barbie Paterson

May 24th

Lindsay McKechnie
Susan Salmon

May 31st

Elaine Craddock
Janny Barr

June 7th

June O'Neil
Diana Macintosh

June 14th

Lindsay McKechnie
Emily Harvey-Cartmell

Christmas Cakes

Christmas has long since passed but a huge **THANK YOU** goes to all who purchased a Christmas cake in December. The wonderful total of **£900** was raised which increases to over **£1125** with Gift Aid. The money raised has been sent to Macmillan Cancer Support.

Thank you Patricia for your baking - we are sure everybody enjoyed their cakes and we hope you will don your apron again nearer Christmas in order to enjoy your cakes again.

A Note from the Session Clerks

At the Kirk Session held on the 5th February 2020 it was explained how the previous Congregational Board Committees would now be part of the Kirk Session under our new Unitary Constitution. Finance will now be called the Financial Administration Team. This will consist of Kati Byrne, as the Congregational treasurer and Colin Shannon, as the Funds treasurer, along with other team members.

The previous Buildings Committee and Halls and Grounds Committee will be amalgamated under the leadership of John Christie.

The three original Kirk Session Teams, Christian Action, Congregational Life and Worship & Discipleship will continue in their current form for the present but their names and remits are currently under review.

Under the Unitary Constitution any member of the Congregation can join any one of the teams as there is no longer a requirement to be an Elder or have to take on the responsibility of being a Trustee. So if you would like to share your skills or talents with any of these Teams to the Glory of God, please speak to ourselves, the Office or the Minister for more information.

We have been busy sorting through the old records of the Helensburgh Old Parish Church & St. Andrews, St. Brides, The West Kirk, St. Columba and Park Church and others. All their Minute books have now been bound and are awaiting transport to be sent to the archives of the Church of Scotland in Edinburgh, along with other documents of historical interest which have been found dating as far back as 1869. In addition David Sinclair has digitised all of Park Church's magazines from the earliest editions to closure. No doubt this will prove to be a valuable source for historians and researchers.

It has been five years since the official formation of Helensburgh Parish Church. In order to celebrate the 5th Anniversary of union we are organising a celebratory dinner at the Commodore Osprey Suite on Saturday 9th May. More details will be available throughout March from the office. Please join us if you are able, we look forward to seeing as many of you there as possible.

God Bless

Elaine & Kevin Craddock

Hospital Tea Bar



Have you visited the Tea Bar at the Vale of Leven Hospital? You will find it if you enter at the main door, go past the shop and the stairs and it is facing you in the corridor, next to the Chapel. It is open 10am - 4pm Monday to Friday and offers welcome refreshment and a quiet haven while awaiting an appointment, results or visiting a patient.

For the last 24 years annual profits of around £10,000 (that's about 1/4 million in total) have purchased a variety of supplies and special vital equipment for the hospital, improving the lives of staff and patients. In 2019 much of the £11,000 profits have purchased equipment and toys for the children's ward and many of the clinics.

The Tea Bar is staffed by volunteers from local churches and organisations. Helensburgh Parish Church operates 2 teams, covering 2 weeks in every 11, with 36 volunteers who work in pairs doing a 3 hour morning or afternoon shift. If you would like to join our merry band or to learn more about what is involved, speak to me at church or 'phone 675421.

Jinty Kerr

Sunday at Seven

I want to publicly congratulate our Director of Music, Derek Clark, for another stunning year of music. Come and Sing last December was one of the highlights. The audience was one of the biggest I can remember, raising £2,050 for Macmillan Cancer.

The 55th season has already kicked off with a marvellous evening with Scottish Opera emerging artists, Mark Nathan and Heather Ireson. Their performance with Derek at the piano was wonderful. I just can't wait for the Three Scottish Tenors on Sunday 23 February.

Mike Loudon

Details of the subsequent concerts are given on page 23

Dear friends,

As I write to you, I am half way through the first stage of my treatment for breast cancer.

My surgery went well and I have completed three rounds of chemotherapy, with another three to go between February and April. Then it's a course of radiotherapy to complete my treatment. The prognosis is very good.

I can hardly believe it's three months since I was last among you. In some ways it seems longer - other days, as if the time has flown by. It's been a challenging time, as many of you will already know. There have been good days and dark days. Boredom and lack of routine has proved difficult for someone who is always on the go and having little or no energy is frustrating and debilitating. I'm not ashamed to say there have been a lot of tears, but thankfully some laughter too

Throughout it all I have been continually sustained by so many messages of love and support. And so I wish to thank all of you for your kindness - for your cards, letters, gifts, visits, flowers and electronic messages. They have always arrived just at the right time, and mean more than you could imagine. Thank you too for your prayers. Knowing you are thinking of me is a huge encouragement. And thank you for your support of my good friend Liz Glover in her fundraising efforts for the Maggie's Centre in Glasgow. Your generosity is overwhelming.

All going to plan - and if this experience has taught me one thing it's never to plan - I hope to be back among you some time in June. In the meantime, please continue to hold me, and others in my situation, in your prayers.

Please also pray for David as he copes on his own with the demands of two congregations in what is the largest parish in Scotland. I know you will help and support him as much as you can.

I miss you all and look forward to seeing you.

Every blessing

Tina



Liz's Hair Today, Gone Tomorrow!

When I promised Tina I would lose my hair when she lost hers, to walk some of the road with her, little did I think it would be so soon. I asked Tina if there was a charity she would like me to raise funds for and Maggie's Centre, Glasgow was her choice.

A huge thank you to all who contributed to my JustGiving page, all the donations 'in the bucket' and those who handed money in to the office. I am totally overwhelmed by the generous support which has been given. At the time of going to print over £3,300 has been raised, far exceeding my expectations. The page is still open if anybody would still like to donate.

I have had an invite from Maggie's for a tour of the centre and also to hand over the cheque. Tina will come with me when she is feeling a bit better. Thankfully my hair is growing in quickly and the need for wearing a beanie is getting less!

God Bless You All

Liz Glover

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Feed the Birds

As Chief Bird Feeder, self appointed, in the church garden, I am looking for volunteers to take my place occasionally, especially in winter. We are increasingly aware of the need to save our planet, our animals and ourselves for the future. Please spare ten minutes once in a while to save our birds. If you can help please contact Gillian on 671029. Thank you.





1st/2nd HELENSBURGH COY

The Boys' Brigade continue to meet in the Halls on Wednesday evenings and would welcome any new boys who might wish to join us. Despite two appeals at Minute for Mission we have not had any volunteers to be leaders. This is concerning.

We have supported CHAS for a number of years in a number of ways. Last Autumn they did a sponsored bulb planting. We did our own version (to avoid the problems with transporting young people). They are outside the back of the Gatherings Space. Have a look. The weather (at the time of writing has been very mixed, but there are already signs of Spring – and hope.

We visited the Glasgow Science Centre last year and will be at Denny Tank in February. Attached is a photo from a previous visit.

Of course, we continue all our normal activities and badge work.



Sponsored bulb planting in the Autumn



Visit to the Denny Tank

Does anyone have any information on Pte. Charles Nimmo who was in 1st Helensburgh BB Coy. in 1933 or of Captain A. McGregor Walker who was captain at that time? If so please contact Iain Talman.

Iain Talman
Captain

Ten Little Privates



Ten little privates went to Drill when fine,
but it started raining and then there were nine

Nine little privates got up very late,
one missed Bible Class and then there were eight.

Eight little privates on the road to Heaven,
one joined a Dancing Club and then there were seven.

Seven little privates heard of Sunday flicks,
one thought he would like to go and then there were six.

Six little buglers kept the Band alive,
one watched the telly and then there were five.

Five little privates seemed loyal to the core,
the Sergeant upset one of them and then there were four.

Four little privates argued heatedly,
over playing Football and then there were three.

Three little privates thought a stripe was due,
one was not promoted and then there were two.

Two little corporals having lots of fun,
one found a girlfriend and then there was one.

One faithful corporal knowing what to do,
got a friend to come to Drill and then there were two.

Two sincere Brigade Boys each brought in one more,
so there numbers doubled and then there were four.

Four sturdy workers simply couldn't wait,
till they found four others and then there were eight.

Eight eager Christians searching round for Boys,
so that they could share their heritage and joys.

Now sixty privates come to Drill Parade,
oh, what a difference that zealous Corporal made.

Anon



Link Group

The visit of the Tartan Harmony Group to the Link Group , proved to be a wonderful start to the Festive Season. We all enjoyed singing along to the many and varied songs and also marvelled at the musical skills displayed by the group, ably led by their conductor Sian Winstanley. We welcomed in the New Year with a trip to the Theatre Royal, to see the Ballet, the Snow Queen, performed by Scottish Ballet. This modern interpretation of the Ballet, proved to be a hit, with excellent dancing, wonderful scenery and great musicianship.

Liz Gillespie on 24th February talked about Dumbarton District Women's Refuge, Helen Buchanan's talk on 9th March is titled Stand By Me, and Jean Senior concludes our season, on 23rd March, when she tells about her work at the Beechtree Clinic.

The Allander Jazz Band pays a welcome return visit to Helensburgh Parish Hall on Saturday 7th March at 7.30 p.m. Admission by ticket only, from the Church Office. Price £8.

The Link Group Coffee Morning is on Saturday 28th March in the Main Hall, from 10 am to 12 noon. Money raised at the Coffee Morning and the Jazz Band evening, will be donated to various causes, including some of the topics covered by our speakers this year.

The Link Group Dinner will be at the Rosslea Hall Hotel in April and the Summer Outing at the end of June.

We are always delighted to welcome visitors and prospective new members to our meetings.

Eileen Drummond.



The Guild

On the 7th January we held our first meeting after the Christmas holidays. We had our Bring and Buy sale when we brought along any gifts we had received that were 'surplus to requirement'. Proceeds go to our Guild projects.

We also had a visit from Graham Smith and John Kelly of St John Scotland who gave a demonstration of CPR and explained the procedure to be followed when using a Defibrillator. It was a very worth while lesson in life saving skills.

'Tangible Texts'. For our meeting on 21st January we brought items of food which were mentioned in a given text from the bible. Vegetables, dried fruits, pulses and condiments were among the varied examples presented.

Mr Kevin Simpson from Malawi Fruits was our speaker on 4th February. Malawi Fruits is a Scottish Christian Charity and aims to support young farmers and their families in the north of the country. We invited fellow guild members from Cardross, Luss, and Rhu and Shandon to join us at this meeting. The talk was very interesting.

This is one of two Guild projects we are supporting this year. The other is the Sailors Society which funds Chaplains who can give practical support and advice to seafarers arriving at the major ports in Scotland from all over the globe.

Saturday 8th February was our Guild Coffee Morning when we hoped for good weather, and plenty of customers to enjoy tea, coffee and a good chat with friends. It was well attended with the sausage rolls, which were served thoroughly enjoyed.

On 18th February Diana Macintosh was our guest speaker. "My Year as the Wife of the Captain of the R & A" was the subject of her talk. It was an enjoyable afternoon with visitors being invited to join us.

Our final speaker for this session is our minister Rev. David Young on 3rd March and then it is our AGM on the 17th.

You are most welcome to attend any of our meetings. We meet on a Tuesday in the Small hall at 2.00 and we look forward to seeing you.

Best wishes

Janette Wilson

Convenor

HELENSBURGH UNIFORM BANK

A Helensburgh Parish Church Initiative

STEP 1 COLLECT

Donations of uniform - jumpers, shirts, PE kits etc. are collected from local schools and taken to Helensburgh Parish Church



CLEAN STEP 2



A dedicated team of volunteers will launder all the donated items ready to be sorted.

STEP 3 CATALOGUE

Clothing is then sorted, catalogued and stored ready for families to choose and use.



CHOOSE & USE STEP 4



Families can then contact the bank directly or attend open days and events and take home any items they need.

SUPPORT HELENSBURGH'S SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Donate or volunteer!

Visit www.helensburghuniformbank.org.uk
or Email us at thehub@helensburghcos.org

Can you help with this new initiative?

You can help by donating items of school uniforms which will be collected from the local schools. Volunteers are needed to uplift the items to be laundered ready for sorting. Once the clothing is sorted and catalogued it will be ready for families to select and use.

Please help in whatever way you can.

Thank you

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The Knitting Group continues to meet on the first Tuesday of the month in The Bridge from 1:30pm-3:30pm. If you would like to come along and join us a warm welcome awaits. We supply yarn, knitting needles and patterns and all items knitted is sent abroad to the needy.

Thank you to those members of the congregation who knit at home and hand the items into the office. This is very much appreciated.

Liz Glover

HELENSBURGH PARISH CHURCH

the BRIDGE at HPC

toasted

OPEN EVERY WEEK

café

Tuesdays 3-5pm
@ the Bridge at HPC
Free Toast and toppings
Games / Study / Chat

Primary school children should be accompanied by an adult
for more info contact Emily on 07930114239 or email familyministry@helensburghcos.org

SATURDAY

MOVIE NIGHT

for KIDS & TEENS

UPCOMING DATES!!

MAR 21
APR 18
MAY 16
JUN 20

7PM START THE BRIDGE

FREE POPCORN!

HELENSBURGH PARISH CHURCH PRESENTS

The HP Academy

HOLIDAY CLUB

6th-9th April
10am-12.30pm

for all in P1-P7
ONLY £2 PER DAY

Book before 27th March
to receive a welcome pack!

www.helensburghcos.org to Book

Be sure to book for the Holiday Club before 27th March to receive a Welcome Pack. We look forward to welcoming back friends old and new!

The Rectory
St James the Least of All



My dear Nephew Darren

This year, the rigours of Lent have taken second place to a far more pressing matter: the installation of a lavatory at St James the Least of All.

Personally, I entirely disapprove of this additional sign of decadence in our moral fibre; we have survived perfectly happily for the last 800 years without one, so why is there such an urgent need now? And being surrounded by acres of fields, there seems to be a completely acceptable alternative.

It also spoils the pleasure I used to take, informing ushers at weddings, having liberally refreshed themselves at our local pub before the Service, that we have no facilities and that they would just have to wait. Their look of pained resignation, developing to clear signs of repentance as the Service progressed, was most cheering. It also meant that wedding parties did not linger after the Service but disappeared with commendable speed to safe havens.

I anticipate that now we have the thing, a sub-committee will form to devise a commissioning Service for the person who will be in charge of its maintenance. I can already foresee Lady Bartlett proposing an appropriate set of robes for the office holder – although it will need some tact to select suitable insignia on the sleeves.

In fact, the project has not been entirely successful; we still need to have a lock fitted and so at present, occupants have been advised to sing hymns loudly. A hymn book has been installed as an *aide memoire*.

The greater difficulty arises from our antiquated plumbing system. A member of the congregation can leave a Service perfectly discreetly; they can enter the lavatory unseen by anyone, but on flushing, water is drawn through pipes running the length of the inside of the building with a thunderous roar.

I am sure that in your worship centre you will have lavish cloakrooms furnished with colour co-ordinated walls and towels, baby-changing facilities and video monitors relaying everything going on in the service. But we are made of sterner stuff, and I maintain that our congregation should be grateful that they now a lavatory at all. And to think that someone suggested it should even have heating!

Your loving uncle,

Eustace



Eco Congregation

It's a big year for Scotland and the environment - Scotland's Year of Coasts & Waters 2020—celebrates Scotland's 10,000km of coastline, its 30,000-plus lochs and lochans and miles of rivers. If you have been taking for granted all that is on your doorstep, have a look at some of the events, to inspire you to get outside and enjoy the beauty of Scotland's coast and waters. <https://www.visitscotland.com/about/themed-years/coasts-waters/>

The COP26 is when the SEC in Glasgow will host the UN Climate Change Conference COP26 from the 9th – 20th November 2020. This is a globally significant event as the world comes together to address climate change. COP26 will be the biggest conference ever staged in Scotland, welcoming participants from all over the world. 2020's conference is seen as a major crossroads in the battle against global climate change. Campaigners hope the event will give the UK the chance to set the tone for the world's future.

Plastic Free Helensburgh Our local Eco community group who are working together with Eco Congregations and Eco Schools. The group aims to encourage individuals and Businesses in the local community to Reduce, Reuse and Recycle. They run events throughout the year aimed at educating, campaigning and practical action. In 2019 they supported the opening of the Zero Waste Helensburgh shop and organised several litter picks, as well as promoting the change to reusable's rather than single use items.

If you want to be more Eco aware start with cutting out the Big 4:

- drinking straws
- takeaway coffee cups
- plastic water bottles
- plastic shopping bags

These are four products we really, really don't need to be using at all. It might feel a little annoying in the beginning, but nowhere near as annoying as oceans choked with plastic.

Saturday 25th April – Eco Congregation Gathering Helensburgh Parish Church 11am 4pm Coasts, waters and the Climate Emergency Come and hear from a range of speakers, take part in workshops and find out more. The event will close with Prayer and Reflection led by Rev'd David Coleman, Environmental Chaplain There is no booking fee but we invite donations on the day to cover the venue hire and catering costs. Book online <http://www.ecocongregationscotland.org>



Christian Aid Events

This year the focus is on Climate with the COP coming to Glasgow in November.

We believe that the earth is the Lord's and everything in it, we'll keep on speaking up for our global neighbours and the world around us.

Drought in Kenya pushed Faith to the brink. Faith and her husband Steven couldn't grow crops. Without crops they didn't have enough to eat or sell. Hunger was a reality. Sending their children to school an impossibility. But with your help she is fighting back.

A sand dam has given her resilience in times of drought. With water Faith can farm. With water she can make bricks to build an outside toilet. With water she can maintain a garden full of vegetables and fruit trees.

As the Climate Emergency continues to get worse drought remains a real threat to Faith and other communities throughout Kenya. £545 could pay for the construction of a sand dam in a community experiencing drought. Please help us raise funds to help communities become resilient to Climate Change.

Christian Aid Week, 10-16th May

Friday 24th April Christian Aid Quiz - St Michael and All Angels Church, William Street 7:30pm

Teams of 4 needed, all ages, £10 per team to enter. Spectators welcome. Please contact Elizabeth 679565

Sunday 3rd May Christian Aid Concert - Helensburgh Chamber Orchestra Helensburgh Parish Church 7-00 p.m. This will be the forth year in a row that Derek Clark has played a concerto for Christian Aid and that, judging by the enthusiasm with which the two previous concerts were received, this one, too, is not to be missed. Helensburgh Chamber Orchestra, Leader Christine Sinclair, Conductor, David Bruce. Duration: about one hour.
Entry by donation Suggested £8 (£5 concession)

Saturday 9th May -10am - 12 noon Christian Aid Grand Fayre Helensburgh Parish Church, Colquhoun Square Entry adults £2 children 50p. Usual stalls including Home baking, Jewellery, Books, Plants, Toys, and Gifts Entrance includes tea/ coffee For Information contact Elizabeth 679565

Sunday 10th May - House to House Collectors needed. Please put your names on the lists in the vestibule.

Sunday 10th May - 7pm United Christian Aid Service Helensburgh Parish Church

All are invited for an evening of praise, prayer and reflection focusing on the work of Christian Aid.

Monday 11th May - Christian Aid Football

Hermitage Academy 6pm- 8:30pm Inter Primary School P7 Football Tournament Organized by Ardencaple Football Club. All family, friends and the public are invited to support this event. There will be a tuck shop and a raffle

Thursday 14th May - Sponsored Swim - Helensburgh Swimming Pool 6.30-8.30pm. Raising Money for Christian Aid, swimmers need to be able to swim lengths confidently. The event is fully supervised; lengths will be counted by lane counters. Swimming in a gala atmosphere the children are able to achieve their personal best for amount of lengths swum. Sponsor forms available from local schools or contact Elizabeth 679565 for more information.

Saturday 16th May - Street Collection Collectors needed. Please put your names on the list in the vestibule.

Sunday 28th June - 5th Annual Helensburgh Hymnfest in Helensburgh Parish Church 7pm

The now traditional season finisher, a fine selection of hymns and worship songs led by the augmented choir organ and praise band with Derek Clark directing proceedings. Summer punch served in the Hall afterwards and a retiring collection for Christian Aid.

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Restoring Claud

When we talk about poverty, transformation and empowerment, do we simply mean full bellies where before there was hunger? or is there more?

After spending 12 years in a Rwandan jail for his involvement in the 1994 genocide, Claude was released. But it didn't fix things. 'It was very difficult,' says Claude. 'In my mind, I was still in prison.'

Claude's wife bore the brunt of his guilt. He mistreated her, and drank heavily, using up the family's food money. Then, staff from our local church partner invited him to come to a meeting.

The pastor was sharing Luke 4:18. 'The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners...'

''Freedom for the prisoners!'' It was when I heard the declaration of Jesus that I was free of prison,' Claude says. 'That's when I felt in my mind really free'.

Redeeming love

As he met the unconditional love of Jesus, Claude also found courage to approach the people he needed forgiveness from – the family members of those he had killed. That same love gave them grace to forgive him.

The change in Claude has brought reconciliation in his community and his home. He treats his wife well and is an active member of our church partner programme, which helps people work together to build their faith and grow their resources. He used to be an enemy in the community, he says, but now he is a friend. 'I am living in harmony with the people whose family members I killed.' Claude's world looks truly different.

Thank God for his grace and love, which enables reconciliation and healing in the most painful situations.

Tearfund Prayer Team

Ordained Local Ministry

It was a delight to gather together with members from Rhu & Shandon Parish Church and the Presbytery of Dumbarton to share the occasion of Ian Millar's Ordination to Local Ministry having successfully completed his Probationary Placement with Rev David T. Young. Those who we were able to attend will agree that the worship was powerful, uplifting and moving. Rev Margaret Nutter opened worship, Dr Iain Galbraith gave a superb sermon, and the new Moderator, Rev Maggie McArthur, gave appropriate Charges. Prior to the service we remembered Rev Tina in our prayers – she of course would have been Ordaining Ian as Moderator; she was very much with us in spirit.

Throughout the past year Ian has become very much part of both congregations; he has participated and led worship on Sunday's and Wednesday's, attended weekly coffee, participated in Holiday Clubs and Chaplaincy duties, visited members in homes and hospitals and of course contributed much to the work of the parish, from conducting funerals to attending monthly clergy breakfasts and ecumenical gatherings with colleagues in the town. Then there's the meetings he has attended including team meetings on a Friday Morning, Ministry Team and Kirk Session – all of which has given him a flavour of Ministry in a very busy Charge.

Rev Millar moves onto the Peninsula churches – Craigrownie linked with Garelochhead and Rosneath: St Modan's - on 1 March to work there with Rev Christine Murdoch. This is a new and exciting chapter in Ian's ministry and we wish him God's richest blessings.



Seaside Special Summer Holiday Club

This year for our holiday club, we are encouraging children to explore the wonders of the world and discover how the God behind all of it wants to get to know them!

Along the way, they will experience the fun of discovery, explore the wonders of the universe, investigate light and colour, be awed by the diversity of the natural world and encounter robots and artificial intelligence.

Find out who God is and how exploring science and following him can go hand in hand.



The holiday club runs in the mornings from **Monday 29th** to **Friday 3rd July** and will be full of creative teaching, games, craft, songs, prayers and Bible stories. The Wonder Zone is a Holiday Club programme from Scripture Union and the Faraday Institute

The Wonder Zone

Monday to Friday

29th June – 3rd July

Helensburgh Baptist Church

Crafts, Games, Songs, Bible Stories

For Children joining P2 up to P7

Mornings: 10am – 12:30pm led by Helen Buchanan (Contraflow)

Registration will be online nearer the time, all leaders hold PVG and are disclosure checked.

Children are welcome to attend individual sessions, the club is funded by the churches and there is no charge to attend.

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Messy Church

Messy Church is on the last Saturday morning of the month at the URC and it gets messy! It is for families with under 11's. We start with the Bible Story followed by themed craft and fun, followed by an interactive informal service and then lunch for all. Do come and meet with others and encourage one another (All children need to be accompanied by an adult).

Dates coming up: Sat 4th April Easter 10:30-12:30



Wellbeing packs



The need is as great as ever for Wellbeing Packs for the homeless. Bags are distributed via Carr Gomm (Housing Support), Women's Refuge and Helensburgh Foodbank. These are the figures for packs issued in 2019

Total brought forward			946
	ladies	men	
Jan	12		
Feb	10	2	
March	2	5	
April	12		
May		3	
June	24	4	
July	13	6	
Sept	6		
Oct	8		
Nov	25		
Dec	6	4	
	118	24	142
			1088

Wellbeing Packs are issued throughout the year, donations are welcome and gratefully received.

These are the items we need most: nailbrushes, facial wipes, toothpaste, facecloths, deodorant, moisturiser, hair brushes. Donations can be left in the box in the vestibule. Money can be given via the office marked Wellbeing packs.

Prayer for those receiving Wellbeing Packs

Father God, we lift before you all who are living in a situation of losing their home because of redundancy, debt or broken relationships.

We know that you are our real shelter. Help them to know the safety and peace of dwelling in you, even amidst desperate circumstances.

Lord, we ask that you would keep these people physically safe.

We long for you to move circumstances that they might keep their homes, but if this does not happen, we ask that you would protect them, find them, and bring them safe to a new home.

Amen



Have you discovered the shelves of books at the end of the corridor past Rooms 3 and 4? These are the books to borrow which were in Room 1.

Here is a slim book called "Explaining Prayer" by Joyce Huggett. This book begins by describing prayer as an adventure and reminds us that we are one big happy family, God's family. "Prayer is the cement which holds us together in the love of God"— a definition by the author.

The disciples asked Jesus " Lord teach us to pray".
This must be our continuing prayer.

"Dare to Stand alone" by Stuart Olyott

In this book Stuart Olyott encourages us to enjoy the Book of Daniel. He makes this book of narrative and prophecy easier to understand, even the difficult and mysterious passages which after chapter eight need some help and explanation. He points out that Daniel would have been a fourteen year old at the beginning of the book and in the closing chapters in his late eighties. Throughout all these years, he stood alone for God in a very difficult environment.

Annis Anderson

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Burn's Supper

A very successful evening was held and much enjoyed by all. Thank you to Tony Kent and his wonderful team for organising, preparing and serving at this event.

There were many appreciative comments given to the youngsters involved in serving - what a team! Well done all.

At the time of going to print photographs were not available but in the next issue of Connections a full report will be given.





The 55th Season has been curated by Derek Clark, Director of Music at Helensburgh Parish Church. Each concert lasts one hour. Entry is free with an opportunity to give a donation as you leave

Sunday 23rd February- Three Scottish Tenors
Cailean Swainson, Christian Schneeberger and David Douglas,
accompanied by Derek Clark,
present a varied programme combining classical highlights with
traditional Scots songs and songs from the shows.

Sunday 29th March - Music for Passion Sunday
A specially devised sequence of words and music to mark this
important date in the church's calendar

Sunday 26th April - Piano Extravaganza No 4
Walter Blair and Derek Clark return for another selection of works for 4
hands on 1 and 2 pianos.

Sunday 31st May - Trio Mallarmé play Ravel - a chance to hear Ravel's
virtuosic Trio in A minor. Violinist Barbara Downie, cellist Rosie Townhill
and pianist Claire Haslin.

28th June - The 5th Helensburgh Hymnfest - traditional season finisher
with a fine selection of hymns and worship songs led by our
augmented choir, organ and Praise Band

Derek Clark
Director of Music

Flower Distribution

Can you help? We still need three volunteers in order to have our
seven complete teams, but more would be welcome. If you are
interested please contact Liz Glover 671068, leave your name and
contact details at the church office or speak to me at the end of a service.



If you know of anybody who should be receiving flowers **please contact the church office** rather than leave it to a Sunday morning as the list will already have been compiled.

Thank you.
Liz Glover

Stamps for World Mission



Many thanks to those who contributed used stamps over the Christmas period. There is now a large shoe box filled to the brim which is about to wend its way to Motherwell for further sorting. My role is just to trim off surplus paper. You would be amazed to see just how much excess paper there is. I did have an enquiry as to how the stamps are used to make money. In short, they are re- packaged and sold to collectors world-wide. In other words, they will end up in a stamp album so there needs to be a neat border on any of the modern self-adhesive stamps. That's why it is best to cut the stamps out of the envelope rather than tear it. You would probably be amazed to discover just how many minute variations there are in the standard stamps.

In 2019, the money raised was channelled to the Chigodi Women's home in Blantyre Malawi, which was celebrating its 50th Anniversary. This establishment provides training in a wide range of skills including tailoring and chicken farming- including such things as marketing and entrepreneurship. As yet, the beneficiary for 2020 has not been announced. Please keep the used stamps coming in. There are plenty of deserving causes out there.

Sandy Kaye



31st January 2020

Dear Barbie,

On behalf of Dumbarton District Women's Aid and the families who access our service can you pass on our thanks to the ladies who provide the wonderful Christmas bags for the women in the refuge. The women were quite excited about opening all the little parcels and couldn't believe the effort that had gone into wrapping everything.

We are always overwhelmed by the generosity of our local community and often wonder if you are aware of the positive effect it has on the women receiving the gifts. Most of the families we work with have had to flee their home and leave behind almost everything they own; we have the privilege of witnessing the impact when we hand the gifts over and it is incredible to see. It is not only about receiving gifts, it is the feeling of worth knowing that people care.

Once again, thanks to you for the most precious of gifts, your support and kindness throughout the year. Please accept our apologies for being so late with our thanks, a lot of staff were hit by flu and we are only now back to a full complement.

With best wishes to you all for a wonderful 2020,

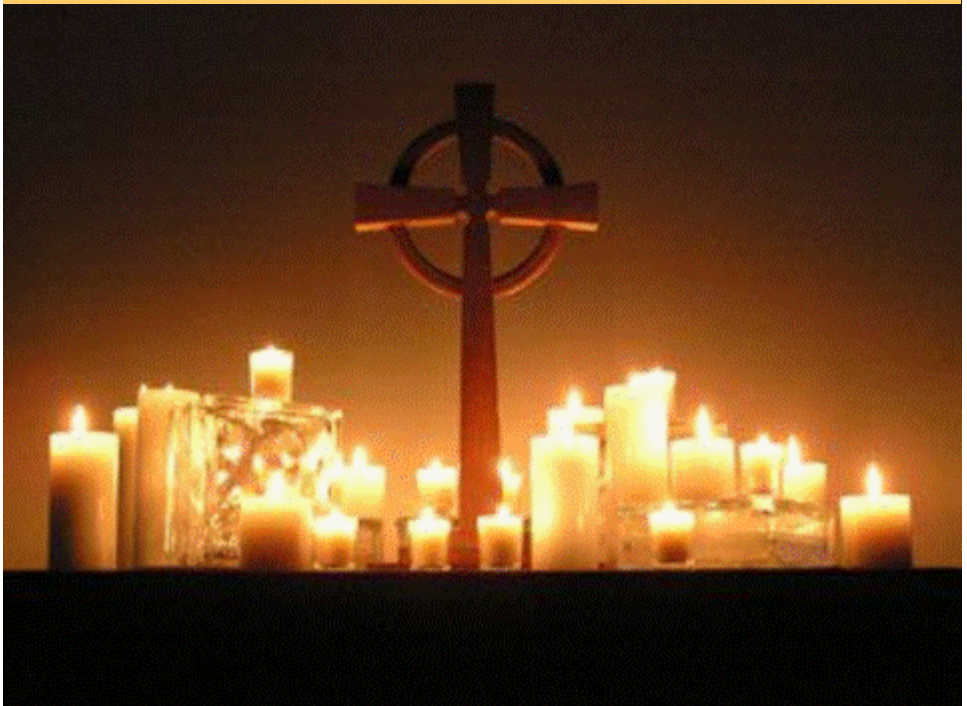
Elizabeth Mooney

Dumbarton District Women's Aid

Scottish Charity No:SCO10067



**Helensburgh Parish Church
on Friday
20th March, 15th May, 19th June,
18th September, 16th October,
20th November
at 6:00pm
in the Sanctuary**



Pastoral Register

Baptisms

Let the little children come to me



29th December Alice Jenny Ann Traynor
Tom Alastair Peter Traynor

Disjunctions *Go now in peace, may the love of God surround you everywhere you may go*

Mr James Weldon
Mrs Sheila Weldon

Deaths

I go to prepare a place for you



October Mary E. Hamill
4th October James Forsyth
13th October Robert Paterson Brodie
26th November Alan MacFarlane
6th December George Hulley
7th December Dorothy Edwards
10th December Douglas S. Dalgleish

2020

January Janette McChesney

We extend our deepest sympathy to those who know the pain of loss

Due to the number of deaths within the community of Helensburgh, and to ensure that no family is ever left out, the Ministry Team have decided not to announce individual deaths during worship. Funeral details - if required - will continue to be announced. All other information can be obtained either from your Elder or from the Church Office.

If you have any anecdotes, poems, pictures that you think the other members of the congregation would be interested in, the Editor would love to receive them. Connections depends on your submissions.

Items for the next issue of Connections to be in the hands of the Editor by **12th May**. Items can be sent to the dedicated magazine address **magazine@helensburghcos.org** or be handed in to the church office addressed to the Editor. **Please do not send items to the office e-mail address but use the dedicated Connections address.** Please ensure items are your own work or that permission has been given to reproduce it. Thank you.

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The Minister's day off is a Monday. To contact him at other times please use the mobile number **07508 628133** or e-mail **minister@helensburghcos.org**

Our Associate Minister is on extended leave.

Our Director of Youth and Families Ministry, Emily, can be contacted on **07930 114239** or **familyministry@helensburghcos.org**

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Please note the new office hours

	<p>THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND Helensburgh Parish Church Colquhoun Square, Helensburgh Scottish Charity: SCO12053 www.helensburghcos.org Church Office, Colquhoun Street, HELENSBURGH G84 8UP Office Hours Monday 9.30am – 1.00pm & 1.30pm – 3.00pm; Tuesday 9.30am – 1.00pm Wednesday 9.30am – 1.00pm & 1.30pm – 3.00pm; Thursday 9.30am – 1.00pm Friday 10.00am – 1.00pm & 1.30pm – 3.00pm (Closed for Lunch 1.00-1.30pm)</p>				
	<p>HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT SCOTLAND</p>		<p>ÀRAINNEACHD EACHDRAIDHEIL ALBA</p>	<p>Tel: 01436 676880</p>	
				<p>E-mail: office@helensburghcos.org</p>	